

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Decision on Appeal

1. Applicant's appeals under 35 U.S.C. §134 from a Final Rejection of claims 1-26 has been reversed by the Board of Patent Appeals. Therefore, the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is withdrawn.
2. Claims 1-26 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 3, 20, 21, 24 and 25 being independent.
3. No new rejection can be made in light of the amendments made to the claims on 1/29/2008.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/28/2011 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-26 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's arguments are persuasive. With respect to claims 1, 3, 21 and 25, the prior art does not explicitly teach or suggest the claimed subject matter, more explicitly, a light guide plate formed of a single material with a uniform index of refraction. With respect to claims 20 and 24, the prior art does not explicitly teach or suggest the claimed subject matter, more specifically a bar-like light source with a narrowing parallel groove.

7. Claims 2, 4-20, 22 and 23 are included due to their dependency.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIELLE ALLEN whose telephone number is (571)270-3039. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 9:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diane Lee can be reached on 571-272-2399. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Danielle Allen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2875
/Anabel M Ton/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2875